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# Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 28 of Security Council resolution 2318 (2016), in which the Council requested me to continue to inform it of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and to bring to its immediate attention any serious violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on temporary arrangements for the administration and security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex). The present report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the operations of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism since the issuance of my previous report (S/2016/864) on 12 October 2016, and covers the period until 14 April 2017.

2. During the reporting period, a strategic review of the mandate of UNISFA was undertaken pursuant to paragraph 29 of Security Council resolution 2318 (2016) and presented on 5 April 2017 (see S/2017/293).

## II. Abyei

### Security

3. The security situation in the Abyei Area is generally calm; however, in the absence of progress in the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and discussions on the final status of the territory, intercommunal tensions and the proliferation of arms present a continued risk. During meetings of the joint security committee with both the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya communities during the reporting period, UNISFA received reports of the presence of armed elements in the Abyei Area. The Mission responded by enhancing its presence in the affected areas through supplementary patrols. There have been no reports of any Sudan Armed Forces or Sudan People's Liberation Army presence in the Abyei Area.

4. During the reporting period, around 35,000 Misseriya nomads arrived in the Abyei Area as part of their annual southwards migration, which usually occurs from October to mid-May. The movement has proceeded without any major incident thanks to the Mission's proactive conflict prevention and mitigation strategy. UNISFA maintains corridors to permit the Misseriya and their cattle to move through the Abyei Area, allowing the two communities to share grazing and water



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resources and, in so doing, preventing intercommunal tensions. Robust monitoring, in particular of flashpoint areas, has been the foundation of this strategy, with patrols during the day and night and armed elements being prevented from entering the area.

5. No major security incidents have taken place thus far and, while some instances of cattle rustling have occurred, both the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities have largely returned the cattle taken and compensation has been arranged through local peace committees. In order to ensure security, UNISFA deployed additional troops at important locations along migration route corridors: Noong and Alal in the central sector and Dungoup in the southern sector. In addition, the Mission controlled Misseriya access to the south-western and south-eastern parts of the Abyei Area. The Mission also maintained frequent engagement with both communities during the migration season through joint security committees at the sector level, as well as community-level engagement.

6. For a second consecutive dry season, UNISFA relaxed the implementation of the disengagement line. This flexibility has been enabled by the continued adherence of the two communities to the agreement of 24 March 2016 at Noong, whereby the Ngok Dinka allowed the Misseriya and their cattle access to water and pasture in areas inhabited by the Ngok Dinka. The Mission's success in managing the disengagement line has encouraged the return of the Ngok Dinka, with new settlements observed during the reporting period in the areas north of the Kiir/Bahr-al-Arab River.

7. Criminality remained largely intra-ethnic; the majority of reported incidents were petty crime. There were also some cases of armed theft and carjacking. Over the past year, the central sector has developed into a hub for criminal activities, with a rise in the economic importance of the Amiet common market and in the north-south movement of traders along the all-weather road from Diffra in the northern sector to Amiet and further southwards to Abyei in the central sector. In response, UNISFA troops enhanced their presence along the critical Farouk-Diffra-Amiet-Abyei-Agok axis to deter criminal activity. On 19 October, armed assailants shot and killed a Ngok Dinka man and seriously wounded a woman. On 17 November, the Amiet market joint traditional court found that the available evidence was insufficient to convict two Misseriya accused of the attack. The two were handed over to the Misseriya traditional chief. UNISFA has increased its security presence at the Amiet common market while encouraging the two communities to cooperate with the Mission on addressing criminality.

8. On 21 December at night, in Noong, assailants fired two rocket-propelled grenades, injuring five people, including two women and a three-year-old child. On 9 January, UNISFA troops prevented violence by intercepting around 10 armed Misseriya near Nainai in the central sector. In the ensuing exchange of fire, one Misseriya was killed. The timing of these incidents suggested that the aim of these armed elements was to influence the deliberations at the meetings of intercommunity traditional leaders held on 30 December and 12 January.

9. Despite enhanced security at critical road crossings by UNISFA, a World Health Organization-Sudan vehicle was carjacked by armed assailants on 17 January north of Diffra. Another carjacking attempt on contractors for the International Organization for Migration travelling from Diffra towards Goli in the northern sector on 17 February resulted in the death of a contractor and the wounding of his driver. Following the attack, UNISFA further reinforced its procedures to ensure the safety of its staff and workers connected with the projects of UNISFA and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the Abyei Area by requiring force protection for all movement north of Dokura/Rumajak in the central sector and between Abyei and

Agok in the southern sector. The completion of the perimeter wall decreased theft within the UNISFA and the United Nations common premises compound. Only three instances of petty theft occurred during the reporting period.

10. Given the unpredictable security situation and continuing tensions between the communities, UNISFA has still not been able to redeploy to Abyei Sudanese national staff who were evacuated to Khartoum and Kadugli in South Kordofan following the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief in 2013. The security situation also had an impact on the work of the Joint Military Observer Committee, which has only been able to conduct separate patrols with the Sudanese monitors deployed north of Todach in the northern sector and the South Sudanese monitors in areas south of Abyei in the central sector.

11. During the reporting period, UNISFA conducted 19,314 day and night area patrols and 7,460 escorts. Given that the Abyei Police Service has not been established, the UNISFA police component continued its efforts to support the maintenance of law and order, with 400 security observation and community-based interactive patrols undertaken during the reporting period. In addition, UNISFA facilitated 276 joint security committee meetings with community leaders in the Abyei Area. Capacity-building of community protection committees in accordance with paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 2287 (2016) continued, with two training workshops organized by UNISFA police during the reporting period for 60 community protection committee members in Agok and Abyei. The establishment of community protection committees in northern Abyei continued to be delayed owing to long-standing reservations of the Government of the Sudan, which has maintained that such committees are not in line with the 20 June 2011 Agreement.

12. In line with the Mission's mandate to confiscate and destroy weapons, UNISFA military and police, working with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), destroyed 16 confiscated weapons and over 1,500 rounds of small arms ammunition at the UNISFA weapons and ammunition management facility. The process was observed by national monitors from the Sudan and South Sudan. During the reporting period, 294 km of priority routes were verified as safe from explosive hazards. Non-technical survey and mine risk education activities in various communities led to the identification and destruction of 129 items of explosive remnants of war and 281 rounds of small arms ammunition. All UNISFA company operating bases, comprising 379,800 $m^2$, were reassessed as safe from explosive hazards. Mine risk education messages were delivered to 246 UNISFA military observers and national monitors. Similar messages were also delivered to over 32,000 men, women, boys and girls living in the Abyei Area, including nomadic herdsmen and returnees.

## Political developments

13. During the reporting period, the Sudan and South Sudan made little progress with respect to the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement. The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee last met on 29 and 30 March 2015. In November 2016, the Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major-General Hassen Ebrahim Mussa, engaged with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee. The African Union High-level Implementation Panel scheduled a meeting of the Committee in Addis Ababa on 13 and 14 January 2017, which was never held. Meanwhile, in Abyei town on 31 October 2016, in commemoration of the third anniversary of the unilateral referendum held in the Abyei Area, around 700 Ngok Dinka led by the Paramount

Chief demonstrated in front of UNISFA headquarters and handed over a petition letter calling for recognition of the referendum.

14. Speaking to the media in February, traditional leaders from both the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities in Abyei called for the release of the report of the African Union investigation into the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief in May 2013. Following the killing, the African Union Peace and Security Council tasked a committee with investigating the incident; the result was presented to the African Union in October 2013. The report was inconclusive, however, as the parties failed to agree on the findings of the investigation.

15. The Government of the Sudan continued to maintain approximately 120 armed personnel at the Diffra oil complex, in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and several Security Council resolutions. For its part, the Government of South Sudan continued to maintain a de facto "local administration" in the central and southern Abyei Area, replacing the head of this administration in January 2017.

## Intercommunal dialogue

16. UNISFA continued to facilitate dialogue between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities in order to prevent and mitigate conflict during the ongoing migration season. As noted previously, however, the lack of progress in the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement has resulted in continued tensions between the two communities, and so has the pending resolution of issues related to the assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief in May 2013.

## Amiet common market

17. The mainstay of the strategy of UNISFA to assist both communities in their efforts to achieve peace and a measure of economic security was to provide support for the Amiet common market. As per the agreement by both communities at Todach in the northern sector on 4 August 2016, the common market was to function at Amiet only temporarily, until 31 December 2016, with the understanding that the two sides would reconvene in December 2016 to decide on its future location. On 30 December, at a meeting facilitated by UNISFA in Todach, the two communities could not reach an agreement on the location of the common market. The Ngok Dinka favoured keeping the market in its present location in Amiet, whereas the Misseriya wanted to transfer the market to Abyei town. Both communities reconvened in Todach on 26 January, but the meeting did not commence, as the Ngok Dinka objected to the absence of the peace committee members within the Misseriya delegation, despite Misseriya claims that their traditional leaders were fully able to represent their community.

18. Subsequently, the Misseriya traditional chiefs presented a letter to UNISFA calling for the closure of the market at Amiet, adding that they would not be responsible for any security consequences. UNISFA has taken precautionary security measures and maintains a deterrent, preventive and responsive posture. Despite these disagreements, there have been no major security incidents or interruptions to the functioning of the Amiet common market. In February, joint peace committee meetings in Tejalei and Leu in the southern sector resulted in an agreement to continue trading activities at the common market until a decision is made regarding its permanent location.

19. A number of conflict-management workshops and training sessions were organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its

implementing partner in November and December, including one that was held from 13 to 15 December in Todach, with joint participation from both communities. Across the Abyei Area, 23 quick-impact projects are being executed by UNISFA in close coordination with the two communities.

20. Additionally, the Mission facilitated joint peace committee meetings and supported the joint bodies that are managing the Amiet common market. UNISFA police mentored market guards on detention procedures, as well as on the handling of criminal incidents and suspects. At the request of the joint peace committees and the joint market committee, on 14 December a temporary detention facility was handed over to the joint traditional court holding sessions at the Amiet common market. UNISFA corrections experts conducted several visits to the Abyei, Agok and Amiet detention centres to assess the state of infrastructure and the condition of detainees.

21. Regarding the legal mechanisms to address criminal offences within the Abyei Area, the Mission continued to engage authorities in the Sudan and South Sudan on arrangements for the handover of individuals detained by the Mission in the performance of its mandate to protect civilians and ensure security in the Abyei Area. Proposals for the signing of memorandums of understanding on the matter were transmitted to Khartoum and Juba in October 2016. So far, there has been no response from either Government.

22. Besides security, UNISFA provided logistical and infrastructural support for the common market, including solar lights and the daily provision of water until an additional hand pump, constructed through humanitarian assistance, became operational on 4 December.

## Humanitarian situation

23. The adverse economic situation, particularly in South Sudan, population movements, intercommunal tensions and limited or absent basic public services continued to result in significant humanitarian needs in the Abyei Area. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and non-governmental organizations continued to provide humanitarian and recovery assistance to 160,000 vulnerable people in the Abyei Area. These included 59,000 people from the Ngok Dinka community, 13,000 Ngok Dinka returnees, 20,000 Ngok Dinka people displaced within the Abyei Area, 8,000 people displaced from neighbouring Unity and Warrap States in South Sudan, 25,000 people of the Misseriya community and 35,000 seasonal Misseriya nomads who entered the area in late 2016 and are expected to return in mid-2017. Additionally, an estimated 11,000 people displaced by conflict in South Sudan transited Abyei in order to reach their final destinations in the Sudan, with some receiving limited basic assistance.

24. In 2016, the humanitarian community shifted the focus from food distribution to more recovery-oriented interventions through food-for-assets projects. The community response to this shift was largely positive, with 69,310 people having benefited from the monthly food distribution. These initiatives have helped the community gradually transition from food aid dependency to conditional food assistance. Meanwhile, 6,842 displaced people from neighbouring Unity State in South Sudan continued to benefit from the general food distribution.

25. Efforts to support community livelihoods included the training of 50 community animal health workers, as well as the vaccination and treatment of about 200,000 livestock belonging to both the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. Distribution of vegetable seeds and hand tools, coupled with specific training sessions, were targeted at 250 Ngok Dinka households engaged in the production of

cash crops. Distribution of fishing kits and training on post-harvest fish management were targeted at 120 Ngok Dinka households engaged in fish processing and marketing activities. Ngok Dinka and Misseriya community leaders participated in eight workshops to improve equitable management of and access to natural resources. Two structures for a veterinary clinic and a traditional court were completed and handed over to the traditional authorities as a part of recovery efforts. The operationalization of these projects, particularly the veterinary clinic, remains a challenge, as the community lacks the capacity to equip and run the facilities.

26. The provision of integrated primary health-care and nutrition services, including routine immunization and essential drugs, was temporarily interrupted because of funding challenges faced by the humanitarian community in many of the 13 health facilities and mobile clinics operating in the Abyei Area. Nutrition screening and programming support for patients with moderate or acute malnutrition continued under a targeted supplementary feeding programme in central and southern Abyei.

27. In the northern parts of the Abyei Area, ensuring a safe water supply for both residential communities and seasonal nomads remained a challenge. Nine new water boreholes were drilled, of which two were at the Amiet common market. Sixteen hand pumps were repaired; five existing hand pumps were upgraded to miniature solar-powered water yards; and five water yards were repaired, benefiting 35,000 people. Other major activities included the training of water user committees in water management and the maintenance of solar-powered water yards. Nevertheless, vandalism and theft of solar systems were widespread because of the limited law enforcement system.

28. Operational challenges included a lack of adequate funds for non-governmental organizations, particularly for primary health-care activities; high implementation costs owing to security and logistical constraints; carjacking in northern parts of Abyei; and delays in the issuance of travel permits and restrictions on the movement of personnel and supplies by the Government of the Sudan. The capacity to respond to needs in the northern parts of Abyei continued to be constrained, as no international non-governmental organizations operate in the area. The continuing conflict in South Sudan also affected humanitarian operations in the Abyei Area, including through high prices for supplies procured in South Sudan.

# III. Status of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

## Political developments

29. Although the Sudan and South Sudan did not make any further progress on the resolution of the final status of the Abyei Area, relations between the two countries appeared to be on a positive trajectory. Presidents Omar Hassan A. Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir met on the margins of the Africa-Arab Summit held in Malabo on 23 November 2016 and reiterated their commitment with respect to the implementation of the 27 September 2012 agreements, including the border security arrangements. Additionally, both countries claimed to have prohibited the presence of the other's armed opposition groups in their territory. In November, the Sudan declared that it had denied the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition leader, Riek Machar, entry into the Sudan, while in January South Sudan claimed to have expelled the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North from its territory. Notwithstanding these gestures, on 13 February, in a public address to

female parliamentarians, President Al-Bashir maintained that Abyei remained a part of the Sudan. Meanwhile, both the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army maintain a presence just outside the boundaries of the Abyei Area, highlighting the continuing risk of armed conflict between the two countries.

30. UNISFA continued its intensive engagement with both Governments on the need for the implementation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011 and the resumption of dialogue in order to jointly address the most pressing security and humanitarian issues in the area and to provide the necessary political support for peace and reconciliation efforts between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. In their discussions with the UNISFA Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander during the reporting period, Sudanese officials maintained that the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee remained the sole framework for discussions with the Government of South Sudan, and expressed disappointment with the cancellation of a planned visit of representatives of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee-Sudan to Abyei town in October 2016 owing to security considerations following Ngok Dinka opposition. Sudanese officials reiterated the need for free and unhindered movement throughout Abyei and expressed the view that the Amiet common market should be relocated to Abyei town. South Sudanese officials, in turn, reiterated their position that the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee was irrelevant in the absence of a joint administration in Abyei, called for the withdrawal of the Diffra oil police and highlighted the need to ensure the "weapons-free" status of the area.

## Operations

31. While there were no further meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism or the joint security committee, the Sudan and South Sudan, in separate letters to UNISFA on 8 November and 15 November 2016, respectively, informed the Mission that their armed personnel had vacated the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The request of UNISFA for ground patrols by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism to conduct a joint verification of the withdrawal was approved by the Sudan and South Sudan in November 2016 and February 2017, respectively. These patrols will be conducted in April 2017, with one ground patrol from each of the two sectors deployed at Kadugli and Gok Machar.

32. Following the previous regular meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 5 June 2016, the Sudan and South Sudan made progress towards advancing the operational capability of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. In this regard, both countries agreed to activate the remaining two sector headquarters at Buram and Malakal. A reconnaissance mission to Buram was conducted on 21 January. Further progress will be determined by the outcome of the recent UNISFA strategic review.

33. The Mechanism continued routine aerial monitoring patrols over the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone despite significant operational challenges. Of 40 planned aerial monitoring patrols during the reporting period, 18 were successfully conducted, while 22 were cancelled. A total of 18 of these cancellations, including the suspension of the programme for the entire month of February, were the result of delays in receiving authorization from the South Sudanese authorities. The rest of the cancellations during the reporting period were the result of the unavailability of aircraft for technical reasons and unfavourable weather conditions. The earlier restrictions on aerial monitoring imposed by the local South Sudanese military formation in Gok Machar and Aweil were removed after a coordination visit by the chief of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, who was accompanied by the South Sudanese senior national monitor, to Gok Machar from 28 November to 1 December 2016.

34. Patrol support teams from UNMAS remained ready to deploy in support of the Mechanism's ground patrols at both sector headquarters in Kadugli, the Sudan, and Gok Machar, South Sudan. In addition, UNMAS delivered integrated ground patrol training for 63 national monitors, military observers and elements of the Ethiopian force protection unit to support preparedness and coordinated risk mitigation.

## IV. Mission support

35. During the reporting period, the UNISFA military component stood at 4,499 (206 military observers/staff officers and 4,293 troops) against an authorized strength of 5,326. The UNISFA police component stood at 20 police officers (7 female and 13 male) against an authorized strength of 50. The total number of civilian staff stood at 126 international and 78 national staff onboard. The Government of the Sudan has issued 190 visas for UNISFA personnel, while visas for 14 staff members, 19 military personnel, 1 official visitor/consultant, 46 UNMAS personnel and 2 contractors remain pending. Three visas for the community liaison office, pending since May 2016, particularly impede the activities of UNISFA, since most activities are increasingly community-based, necessitating the presence of staff with civil affairs expertise. During the reporting period, the Mission completed the rotation of 1,272 troops and transportation of 59,214 kg cargo through Kadugli airport, conducting 91 rotary-wing round-trip airlifts (76 troop and 15 cargo).

36. During the ongoing dry season, UNISFA commenced the transformation of the Noong temporary operating base into a permanent operating base, using the Mission's engineering resources. It is expected to be fully established before the onset of the rainy season, which begins around June. With the Sudan having removed the restrictions on construction material coming into the Abyei Area, as indicated in my previous report, the Mission continues to upgrade the infrastructure and environmental installations at all camps. The construction of a perimeter wall and lighting around Mission headquarters in Abyei has been completed; this includes the area for accommodating the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters after its eventual move from Kadugli to Abyei. Site preparation work at the expansion site and improvement of the challenging living conditions at Mission headquarters in Abyei are ongoing. Four contracts for the replacement of depreciated old prefabricated accommodation units have been awarded in order to improve living conditions in the Mission camps across the Abyei Area. With regard to environmental and hygiene aspects, the replacement and installation of additional wastewater treatment plants is ongoing. Construction of new septic tanks for pre-treatment of septic waste has been completed. Establishment of a landfill for all Mission camps in the Abyei Area for the disposal of solid waste is ongoing.

## V. Financial aspects

37. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/269 of 17 June 2016, appropriated the amount of $268.6 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. As at 22 March 2017, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNISFA amounted to $28.0 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,508.0 million. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 January 2017, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 31 December 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

# VI. Observations and recommendations

38. Abyei continues to be of high strategic and economic importance to the Sudan and South Sudan, and any local conflict between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities in the Abyei Area, or any direct confrontation on the border, could lead to increased tensions, with dire consequences for the wider region. The continued presence of UNISFA deters armed confrontation between the two countries. The Mission has also, through the proactive implementation of its conflict prevention and mitigation strategy and community engagement, contributed to ensuring a relatively stable security situation in the Abyei Area, where movements as part of the ongoing migration season have thus far been conducted without any major security incidents.

39. In order to consolidate gains achieved by UNISFA at the local level, it is necessary for the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to actively engage in discussions on addressing the most pressing security and humanitarian concerns faced by the people of Abyei. In the absence of such regular engagement, UNISFA and humanitarian actors continue to operate in a governance vacuum. I therefore urge the parties to convene regular meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, which has not met since March 2015, to advance the implementation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011. This is long overdue and a necessary initial step in taking forward the intention of the two Governments regarding joint administration and policing in Abyei while an agreement on its final status is pending.

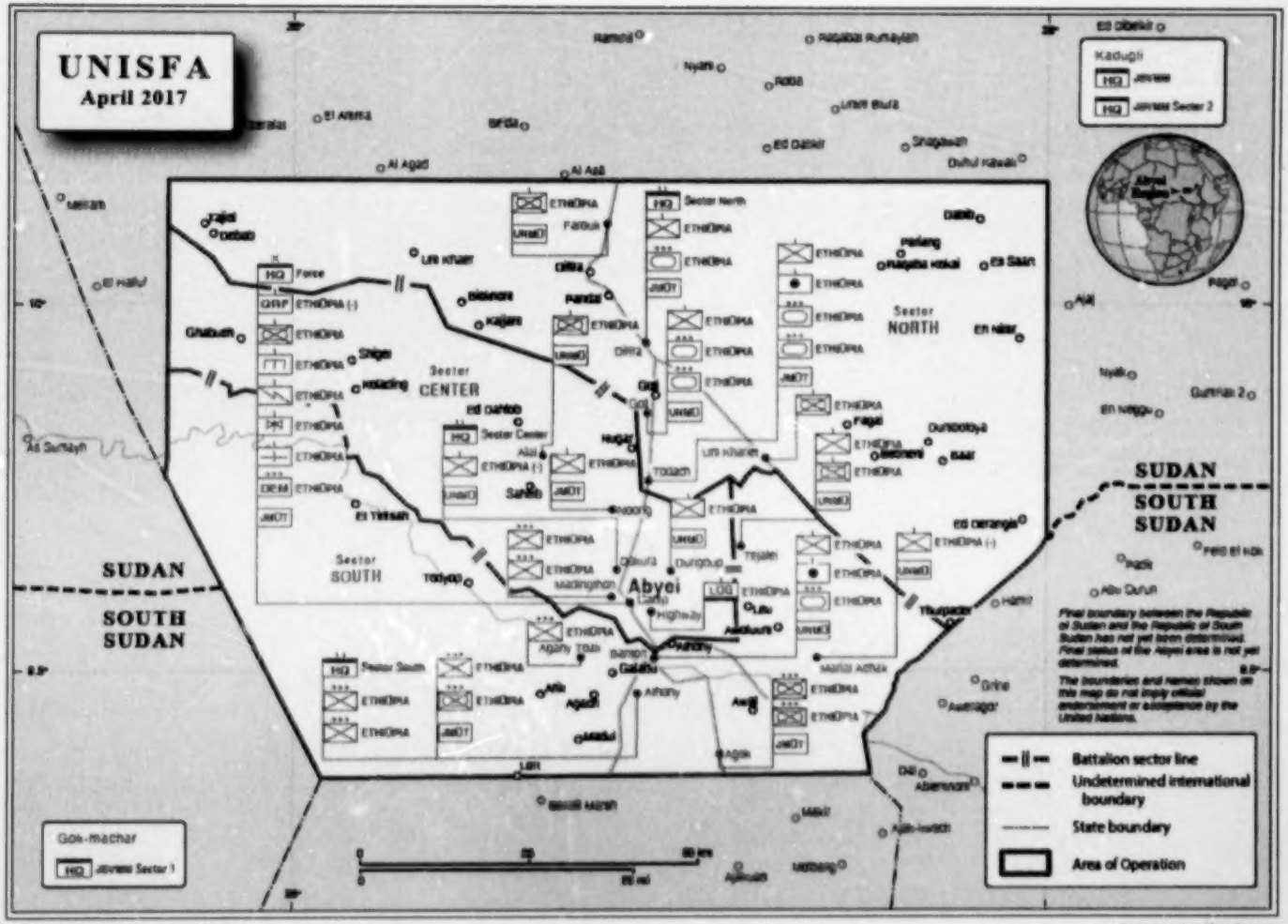
40. The continued presence of armed personnel at the Diffra oil complex in the northern Abyei Area and the operation of a de facto "local administration" in the southern Abyei Area continue to violate and to undermine the 20 June 2011 Agreement. I call upon the Government of the Sudan to withdraw its armed personnel from Diffra and on the Government of South Sudan to accept and participate in the joint administration arrangements and institutions established by the 20 June 2011 Agreement. I welcome the written declarations of both Governments regarding the withdrawal of their respective forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the approval of verification ground patrols, which UNISFA plans to undertake by the end of April 2017. Aerial monitoring continues along the entire length of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone; the aerial surveillance capacity of the Mechanism could be enhanced within existing resources by deploying fixed-wing aircraft with advanced imaging and visibility capabilities, as recommended by the recent strategic review.

41. The Amiet common market remains the most visible symbol of the commitment of both the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities to peace and reconciliation at the local level; disagreement over its permanent location and its politicization at higher levels is regrettable. I strongly urge the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to support the efforts of UNISFA to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence between the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka communities, and to refrain from any actions that could create antagonism or confrontation. As a further step towards achieving reconciliation between the two communities, I reiterate the need to achieve closure on the 2013 killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief.

42. I am encouraged by the significant progress made by the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities on issues affecting their people and on reconciliation. Yet, much remains to be done to ensure the smooth implementation of the provisions of the Agreements of 20 June 2011 and 27 September 2012 on security arrangements. I therefore recommend the extension of the mandate of UNISFA for another six

months to help both Governments to make progress towards the goals that they have set for themselves in those Agreements.

43. In conclusion, I would like to commend the former Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Hassen Ebrahim Mussa, for his tenure at the helm of UNISFA. I encourage his successor, Major General Tesfay Gidey Hailemichael, to innovatively take the Mission forward. I thank all United Nations staff, including staff of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, for their commitment to the cause of peace in the Abyei Area. The work of my Special Envoy, Nicholas Haysom, in energizing the political process is much appreciated. Finally, my thanks are also due to the former President of South Africa and Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki; the African Union Commission; the Peace and Security Council of the African Union; and the Government of Ethiopia, for their unstinting support for UNISFA and for standing tall in support of peace in the Abyei Area.


UNISFA
April 2017
Sector CENTER
Sector NORTH
Sector SOUTH
Abyei
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
Battalion sector line
Undetermined international boundary
State boundary
Area of Operation
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map No. 4467 Rev. 34 UNITED NATIONS
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Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)